Supernatural, Castiel/Gabriel, "Will you come home with me?"

Angel lore is a thing of mine. As is Gabriel/Castiel. So this prompt made me very, very happy. :)

Gabriel shakes his head, quiet. He can't go back. Not after his years on Earth, not when the fighting isn't over, not when he'll be in sudden demand from Cherubim and the guards over Paradise and when Dobiel will yell at him as only an abandoned angel can.

Dobiel was only supposed to have his position for twenty-one days, and Ophiel will probably do more yelling, as leaving him in charge of the Cherubim was Gabriel's fault, and - no.

Gabriel cannot go back. He cannot find the strength within him to own up to his mistakes, and even with Castiel's eyes searching his own, he cannot resume his position in Heaven.

"Gabriel," Castiel says, quietly. "I have not the authority to hold all of Heaven together through this chaos. If I returned with your support, even Raphael would listen."

Gabriel remains silent. He's being a coward and he knows it.

"Brother," Castiel says, and Gabriel knows that if he is a coward enough to deny Castiel at this, Castiel will leave, and he will be able to hide again.

"Brother, I need you to come home with me."

Castiel doesn't need to outline why. He doesn't need to mention the safety he feels in Gabriel's arms, or the longing for home they both have while knowing what it is to almost be human at the same time.

Knowing what it is to give into too-human desires.

Castiel's request is scaring him in more ways than one, and Gabriel is prepared to flee, to deny him, which is why he wants to punch himself for saying.

"Alright, fine. I'll go." He's trying to be flippant and laugh it off, but he's scared, and there are going to be too many memories above, but he can't help it.

He sees Castiel relax, he feels relief at that, and he thinks of stopping what he always hated - when his brothers killed each other.

"...lead the way, Castiel." He says, quietly, and Castiel nods, understanding what it costs for him, and he touches Gabriel's shoulder for a moment.

Then he's gone, and Gabriel follows, and they are going home.